



VOLUME 15 ISSUE NO. 3 SUMMER 2022

Do One Thing For Clean Air



Clean Air Action Day

August 3, 2022

AIR NTX

GPTX

H₂O LINE NEWSLETTER

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MEETING NOTICE

Please join us on Thursday, August 18, 2022 for the next Environmental Compliance meeting. The meeting will be held from 9:30 - 11:00 am at the Main Library located at the 901 Conover.

Dr. Valerie Shoup with Heritage Institute of Sustainability will be presenting "Controlling Building Harmonics to Minimize Energy Costs." Many design engineers are not aware that many "energy-efficient" designs actually increase building harmonics that increase energy costs. Dr. Shoup will discuss the importance of controlling building harmonics to minimize energy costs and maintenance costs.

To register, or for more information, contact Eric Straw at (972) 237-8277 or estraw@gptx.org, or fax your registration form to (972) 237-8228.

CLEAN AIR ACTION CHALLENGE

Clean Air Action Day is on August 3, 2022. North Texas counties suffer from high levels of ground level ozone – formed largely from emissions. This negatively affects our environment, economic development and human health. High ozone is particularly harmful to young children and people with respiratory conditions.

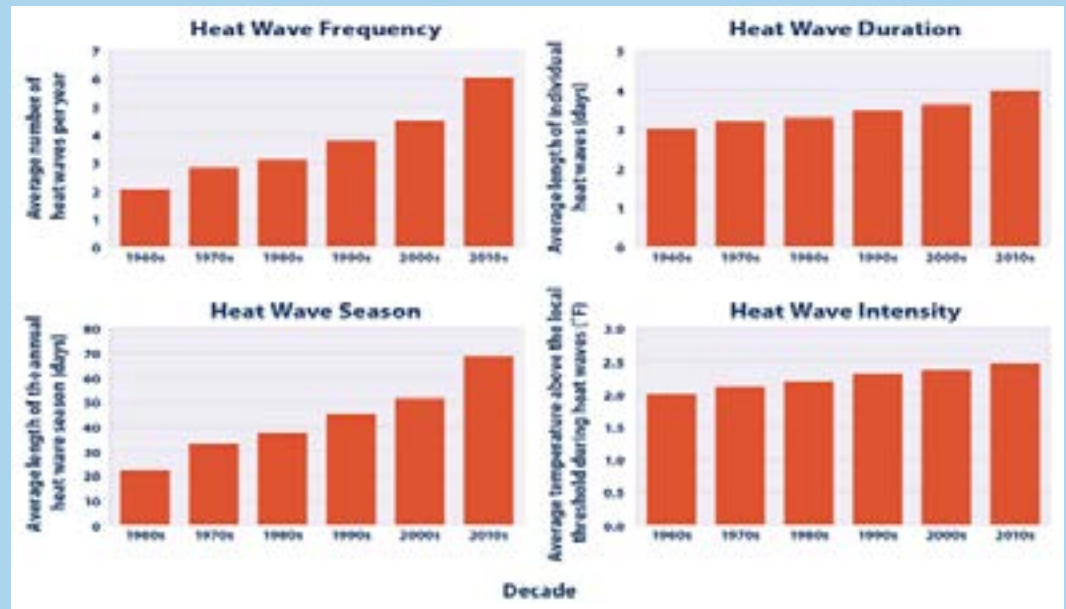
As an individual, you can take a pledge to do multiple things to help reduce our ground level ozone (combing errand in your vehicle, riding a bike, cutting down on electricity, etc.). As an industry, you and your coworkers can combine forces by taking the pledge, educating and competing in our Industry Challenge. Our department recognizes all participants in the challenge and will award the winner/s that go above and beyond.

Please contact Eric Straw at estraw@gptx.org or at (972) 237-8277 for more ideas for education and initiatives if your industry would like to take part. The deadline to submit the application is the big day, August 3rd! So please do one thing, pledge, participate in the challenge and help us create cleaner air for all North Texans!

CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS: HEAT WAVES

Is it getting hotter? Yes! This indicator describes trends in multi-day extreme heat events across the United States.

This figure shows changes in the number of heat waves per year (frequency); the average length of heat waves in days (duration); the number of days between the first and last heat wave of the year (season length); and how hot the heat waves were, compared with the local temperature threshold for defining a heat wave (intensity). These data were analyzed from 1961 to 2019 for 50 large metropolitan areas. The graphs show averages across all 50 metropolitan areas by decade.



Source: Climate Change Indicators: Heat Waves | US EPA

AIR QUALITY FLAG PROGRAM



Here's how the Air Quality Flag Program works: each day your organization raises a flag that corresponds to how clean or polluted the air is. The color of the flag matches EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI): green, yellow, orange, red, and purple. On unhealthy days, your organization can use this information to adjust physical activities to help reduce exposure to air pollution, while still keeping people active. For more information on how to get started, visit: Four Steps to Starting an Air Quality Flag Program | AirNow.gov

TEXAS TROUBLE

A turbine manufacturing facility in Dallas County was assessed \$3,250 for facility to certify compliance for at least each 12-month period following initial air permit issuance, and failing to submit a permit compliance certification within 30 days of any certification period.

A scrap metal recycler in Jefferson County was assessed \$45,233 for failing to obtain authorization to discharge stormwater associated with industrial activities, failing to ensure that all containers that store used oil are in good condition and not leaking, failing to immediately clean up a discharge or spill, failing to permit the unauthorized storage

and disposal of municipal solid waste and failing to dispose of industrial solid waste at an authorized facility.

A former metal plating operation in Hill County was assessed \$26,250 for permitting the unauthorized disposal of industrial solid waste into or adjacent to any water in the state, by failing to conduct hazardous waste determinations and waste classifications, failing to keep hazardous waste containers closed, and failing to comply with the 180 day accumulation time limitation for the storage of industrial hazardous waste.

CLEAN AIR BUSINESS ACTIONS

Business Actions

Business operations:

- Delay business opening until 9 am or later
- Limit testing of emergency generators
- Move construction activities to evening hours
- Postpone mowing to a day that is not an Ozone Action Day
- Conserve electricity
- Conserve water

Communication and employee initiatives:

- Communicate Ozone Action Day Alerts on company websites, through e-mails to employees, posted signs, intranet or other strategies
- Coordinate on-site employee lunches
- Utilize audio and video conference call technology
- Allow employees to work from home or work an alternative schedule
- Encourage employees to carpool
- Encourage employees to ride mass transit
- Encourage employees to bicycle or walk to work
- Encourage employees to maintain consistent driving speed and avoid quick accelerations and heavy braking
- Encourage employees to bring lunch or carpool to lunch

Strategies for vehicle operations:

- Reduce idling of on-road vehicles and non-road equipment, including construction equipment
- Avoid unnecessary trips
- Reduce travel during rush hour
- Drive the most fuel-efficient vehicle when driving is necessary
- Maintain vehicle emissions and safety inspections
- Ensure tires are properly inflated

Join other businesses, individuals and local governments in committing to clean air actions.

Review the list and select the strategies you currently or intend to implement during the critically important Ozone Action Days. High ozone levels can cause serious health problems, and inhaling ground-level ozone is especially dangerous for people who have asthma or respiratory problems.

Better air quality poses fewer health risks to residents and ensures the continued economic success of the region.

OZONE RECLASSIFICATION

DFW FACES RECLASSIFICATION TO SEVERE NON-ATTAINMENT FOR OZONE.

For ozone, the federal Clean Air Act establishes nonattainment area classifications ranked according to the severity of the area's air pollution problem. These classifications—marginal, moderate, serious, severe, and extreme—translate to varying requirements with which Texas and nonattainment areas must comply.

The DFW Region did not meet its attainment deadlines for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard and the EPA may soon reclassify our area to Severe Non-Attainment. The 2008 rule requires metro regions to stay below 75 parts per billion of ozone in the air; the EPA looks at the fourth worst ozone pollution days between 2018 and 2020 to determine the limit was violated. The Dallas-Fort Worth area, a 10-county region, exceeded the threshold at 76 parts per billion. Four other metro regions — Houston, Denver, Chicago and New York — also failed to meet the standard and would be listed as “severe” violators under the EPA's proposal.

The new designation in the Dallas region would trigger more aggressive pollution control requirements on businesses by requiring the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to revise its plans to control smog in those regions. The changes could include stricter air pollution

permits and requiring businesses to install better pollution control technology, as well as requiring a greater reduction in pollution before an area can approve new additional pollution sources.

An October 2021 report by the Texas state climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon found that average daily minimum and maximum temperatures in Texas have both increased by 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit in the last 125 years. Nearly half the increase has come since 2000. To view the report, go to [ClimateReport-1900to2036-2021Update \(tamu.edu\)](https://climate.tamu.edu/reports/ClimateReport-1900to2036-2021Update)

According to Daniel Cohan, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Rice University and an expert on air quality, “EPA is showing frustration that Texas hasn't done more to take vigorous measures [to cut ozone pollution]”. “But just the atmospheric chemistry of the situation is going to make a 70 parts per billion standard very difficult for large cities to achieve in hot climates.”



LIGHT-DUTY MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASE OR LEASE INCENTIVE PROGRAM (LDPLIP) REBATES STILL AVAILABLE!

The TCEQ's TERP is still accepting applications for the Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program (LDPLIP). Rebates of up to \$5,000 are available for compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquified petroleum gas (LPG or propane) vehicles. Rebates of up to \$2,500 are available for electric drive (plug-in or plug-in hybrid) or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Applications will be accepted and considered on a first-come, first-served basis until 5:00 p.m. on January 7, 2023.

Visit the LDPLIP website for more information and the application form: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/ld.html>